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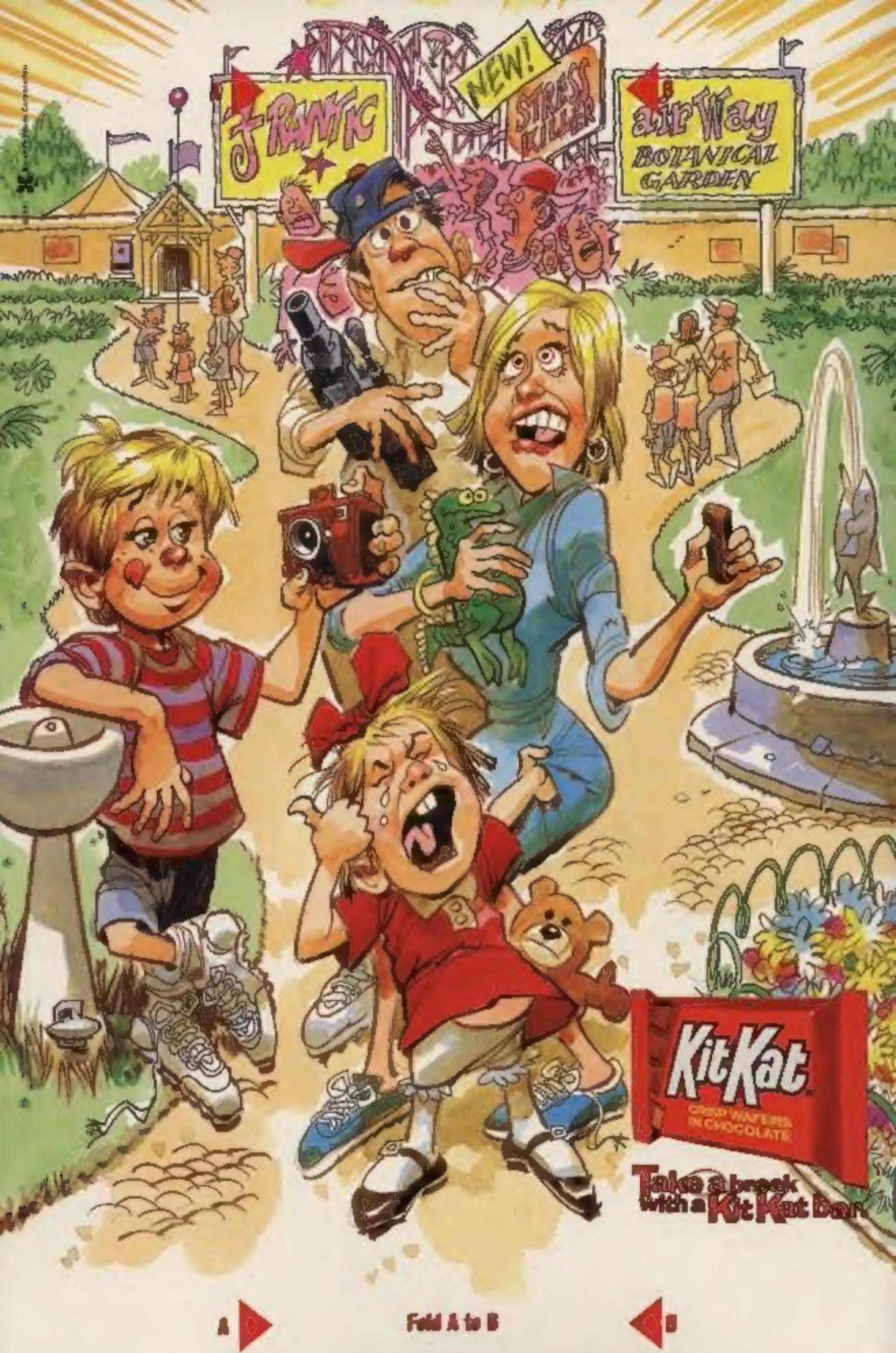
KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMIC
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY



DIRECT EDITION



Fold A to B

KNUCKLES

BOOK EIGHT

DARK VENGEANCE

Part Two of Three

Ken Penders
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Knuckles No. 8, Jan., 1998. Published monthly except July and Nov. by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher; Michael J. Bilberstein, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.75 in the U.S.; \$1.85 in Canada. Subscription rate, U.S., \$17.50 for 10 issues; \$18.50 in Canada. All contents © 1997 by SEGA of America, Inc. unless otherwise noted. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this issue and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Sega is registered with the U.S. patent and trademark office. Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of Sega. ©1997 Sega. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Application to mail at periodicals postage pending at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Knuckles c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Printed in Canada.



**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE
AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE
FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL
AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS
NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**LAST ISSUE, KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU ENGAGED IN
A THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION INVOLVING PLENTY OF
QUESTIONS BUT FEW ANSWERS. DECIDING THERE
WAS ONLY ONE PARTY THEY COULD TURN TO, THEY
SOUGHT OUT ARCHIMEDES, THE ENIGMATIC
FIRE-ANT WHO SERVES AS BOTH FRIEND AND
MENTOR. DURING THEIR QUEST, THEY DISCOVERED
EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED TO
THE CHATIX. EVIDENCE WHICH POINTED TO NOT
JUST ONE ENEMY, BUT TWO.**

**MAKING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND,
KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU WERE CONFRONTED ONCE
AGAIN BY A BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY
OTHER THEY HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED.**

THINGS DIDN'T
MATTER AS MUCH
WHEN I THOUGHT
I WAS ALONE...

--BEFORE I
HAD FRIENDS--

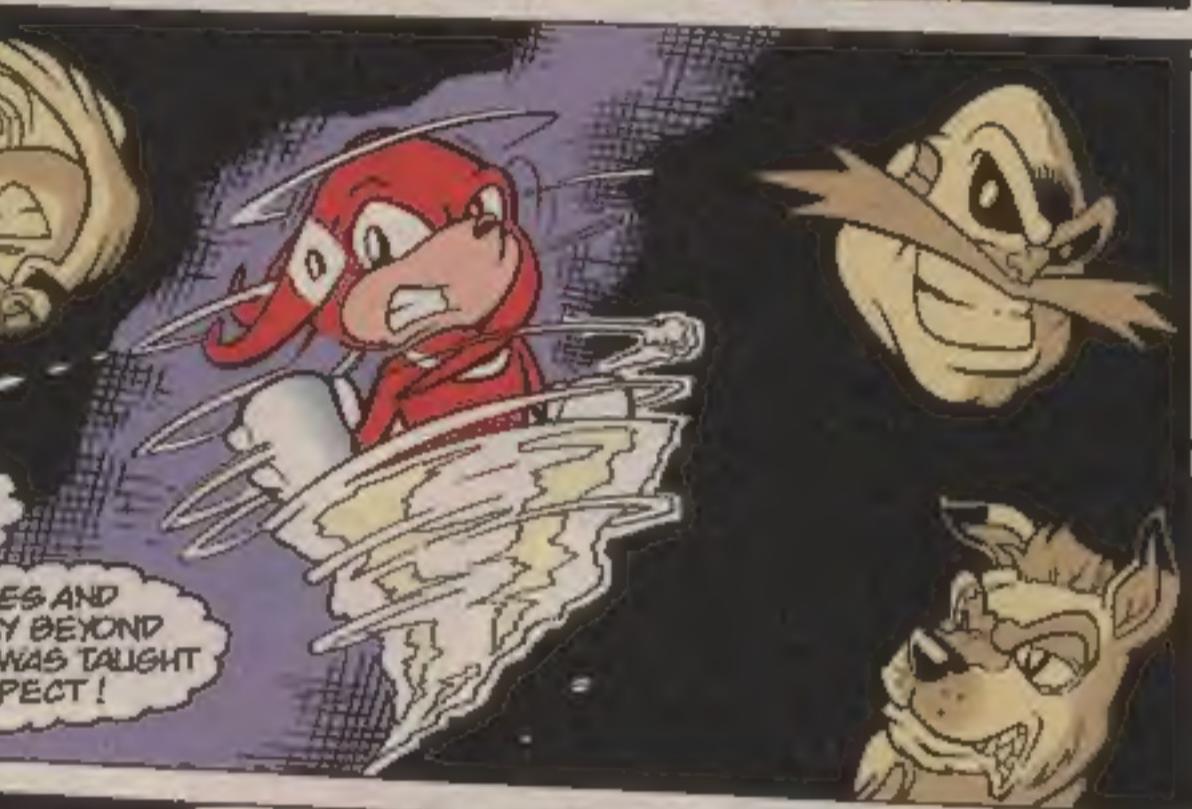
--AND A
FAMILY!



BUT WITH
THE GOOD-

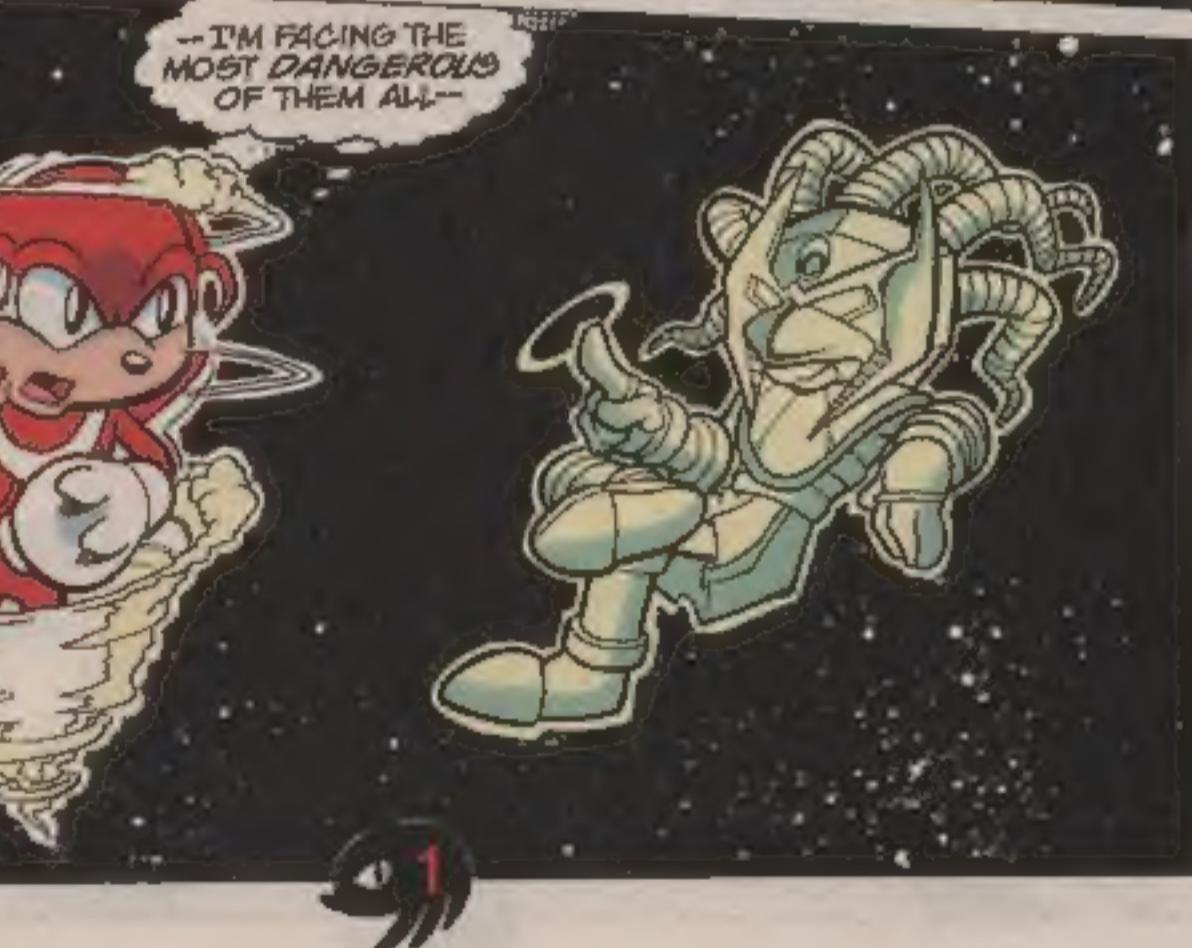
--CAME
THE BAD--

--ENEMIES AND
THREATS WAY BEYOND
ANYTHING I WAS TAUGHT
TO EXPECT!



AND NOW--

--I'M FACING THE
MOST DANGEROUS
OF THEM ALL--



--ENERJAK, AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING FUELED BY THE ENERGY OF ELEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS--

--WHO, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WAS ONCE AN ECHIDNA SCIENTIST NAMED DIMITRI!

FUNNY HOW ONE'S BLOOD RELATIVES MAKE THE WORST ENEMIES!

MY, MY, MY! EVER THE PROUD ECHIDNA, ARE WE?

KNUCKLES IN

THE GAUNTLET

NOT FOR LONG,
I CAN ASSURE YOU,
KNUCKLES!

I'M GOING
TO BREAK YOU
TOTALLY—COMPLETELY—
MERCILESSLY!

YOU'RE GOING
TO PAY FOR WHAT
YOU DID!





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I GATHER FROM YOUR EXPRESSION--

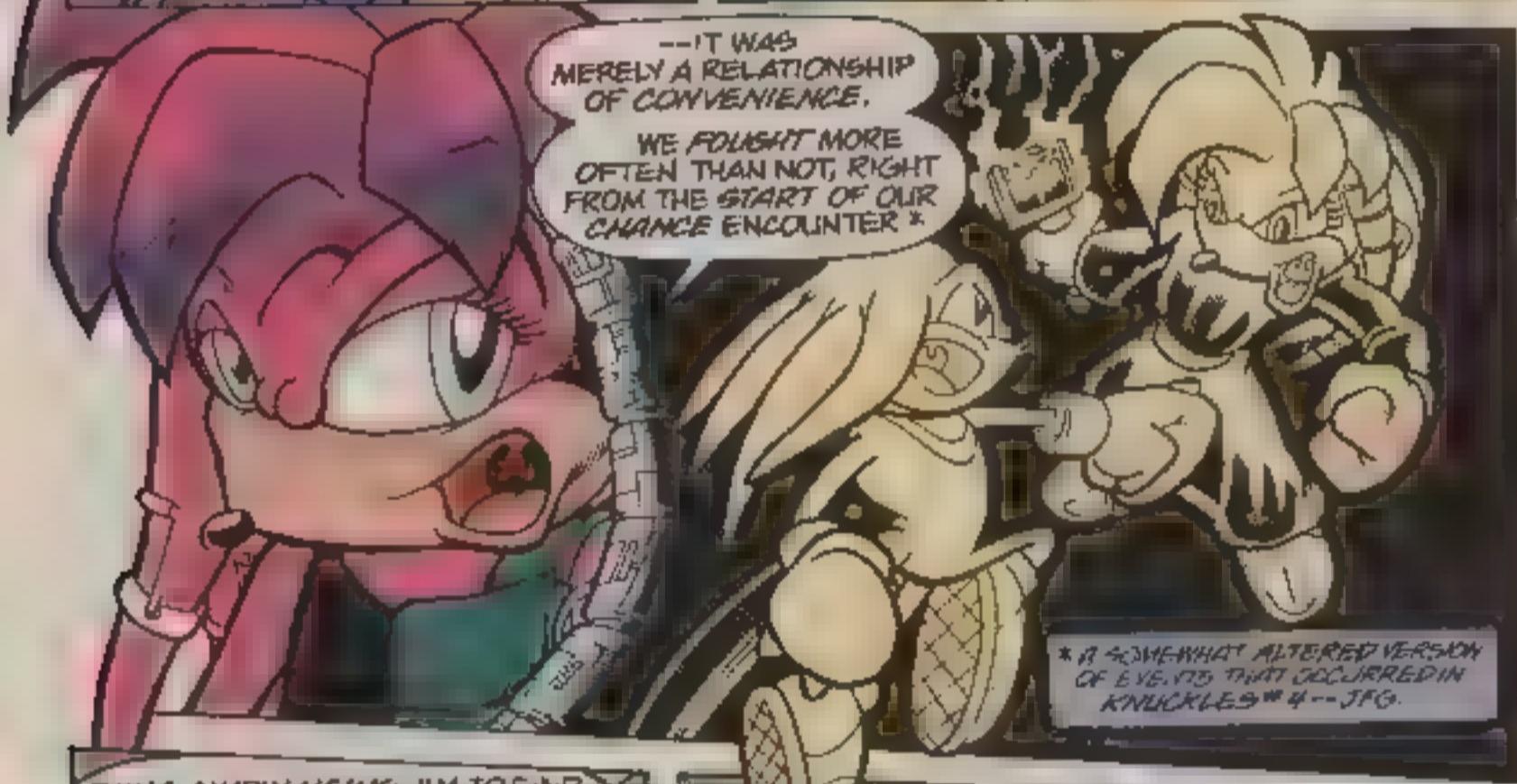
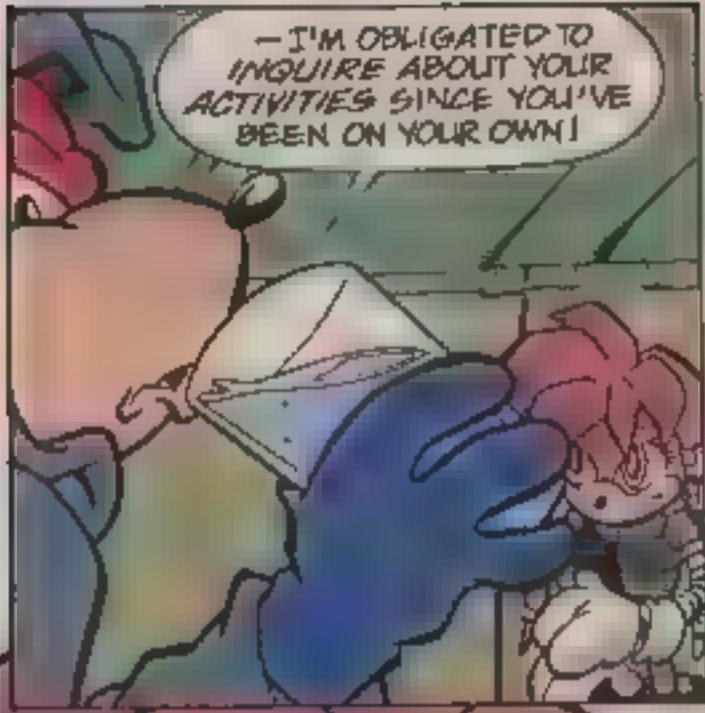
"--THE REALITY OF YOUR SITUATION IS BEGINNING TO SINK IN!"

I HAD JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE--

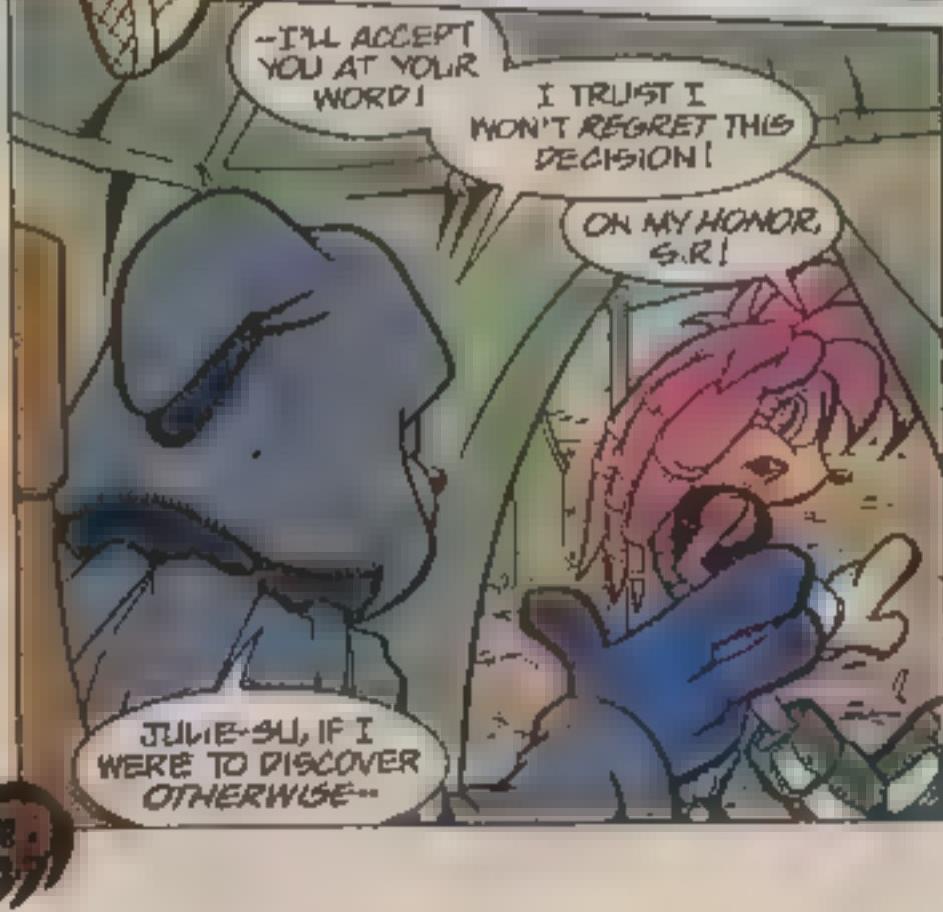
--OF EVER FINDING YOU, JUKE-SU!

WE SUFFER ENOUGH LOSSES WITHOUT ABANDONING ONE OF OUR OWN!

STILL--



* A SOMEWHAT ALTERED VERSION OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN KNUCKLES #4 -- JFG.



"--MUCH MORE THAN HONOR
WOULD BE AT STAKE!"

THIS IS SO
WEIRD! I SHOULD
FEEL AT HOME
HERE.

--AND
INSTEAD, I FEEL
LIKE SUCH A
STRANGER!

I EXPECT THE MEMBERS
OF THIS SQUAD TO
HAVE THE IR VEHICLES
READY TO MOVE AT
A MOMENT'S
NOTICE!

SERGEANT RYKOR, I'M HERE TO
RESUME MY POSITION.

IS THAT SO,
SOLDIER?

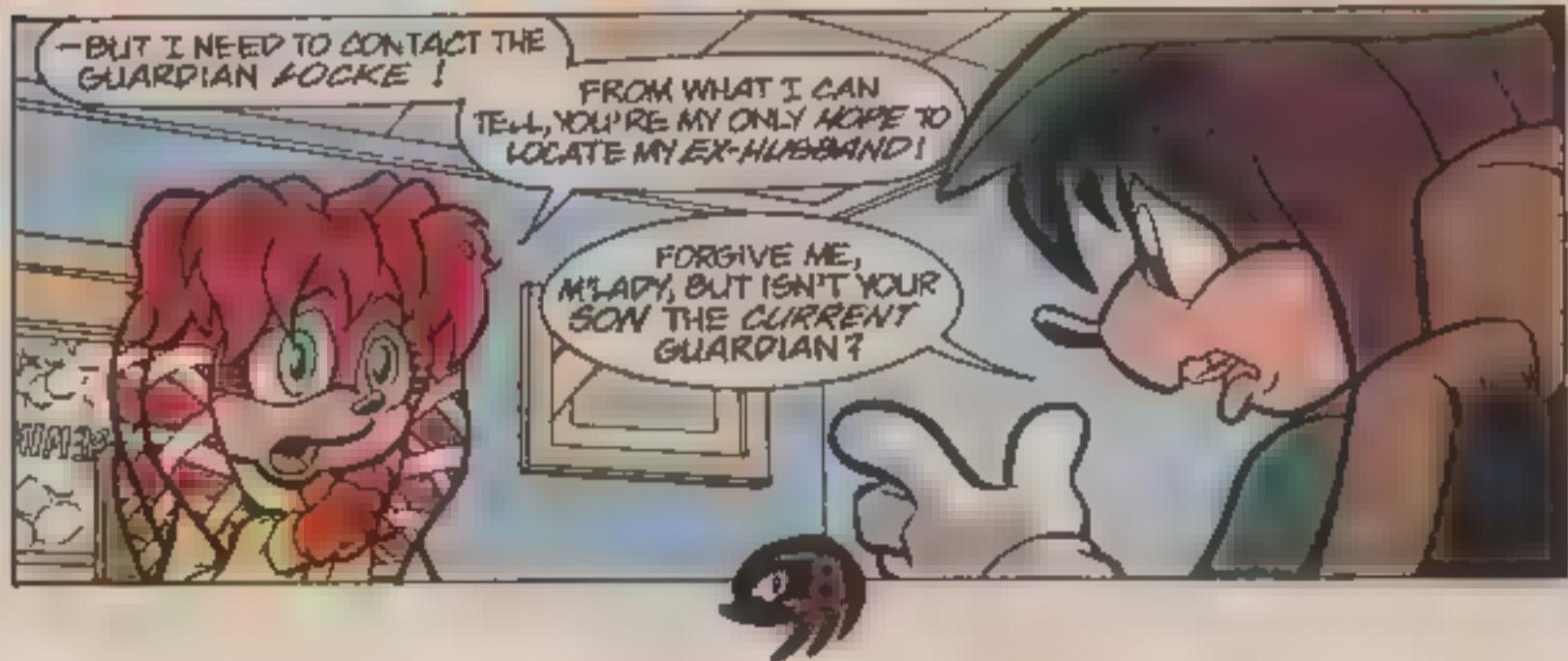
YOU SO MUCH AS GIVE
ME REASON TO DOUBT
YOUR LOYALTY—

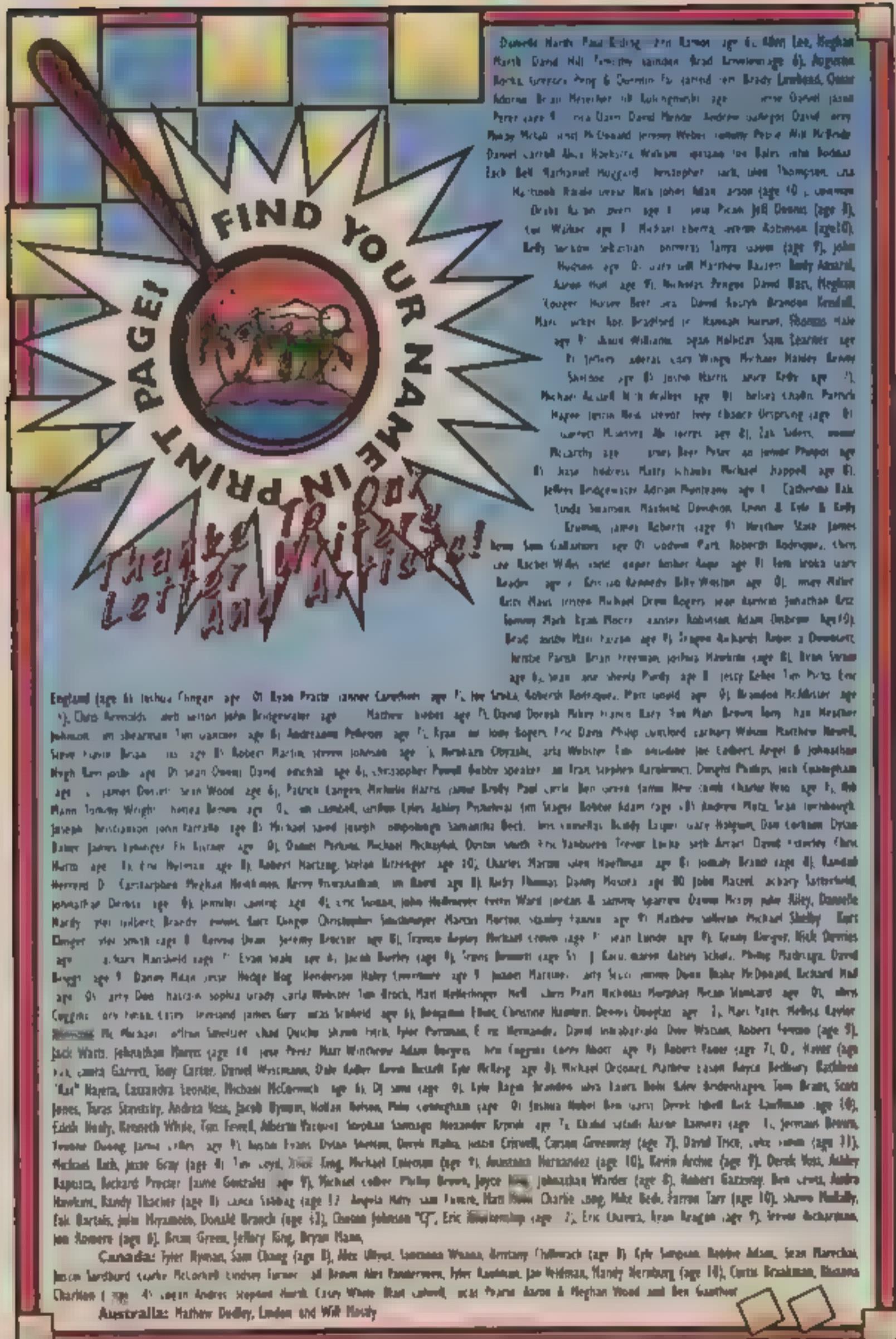
AND YOU'LL SEE
STARS IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT!

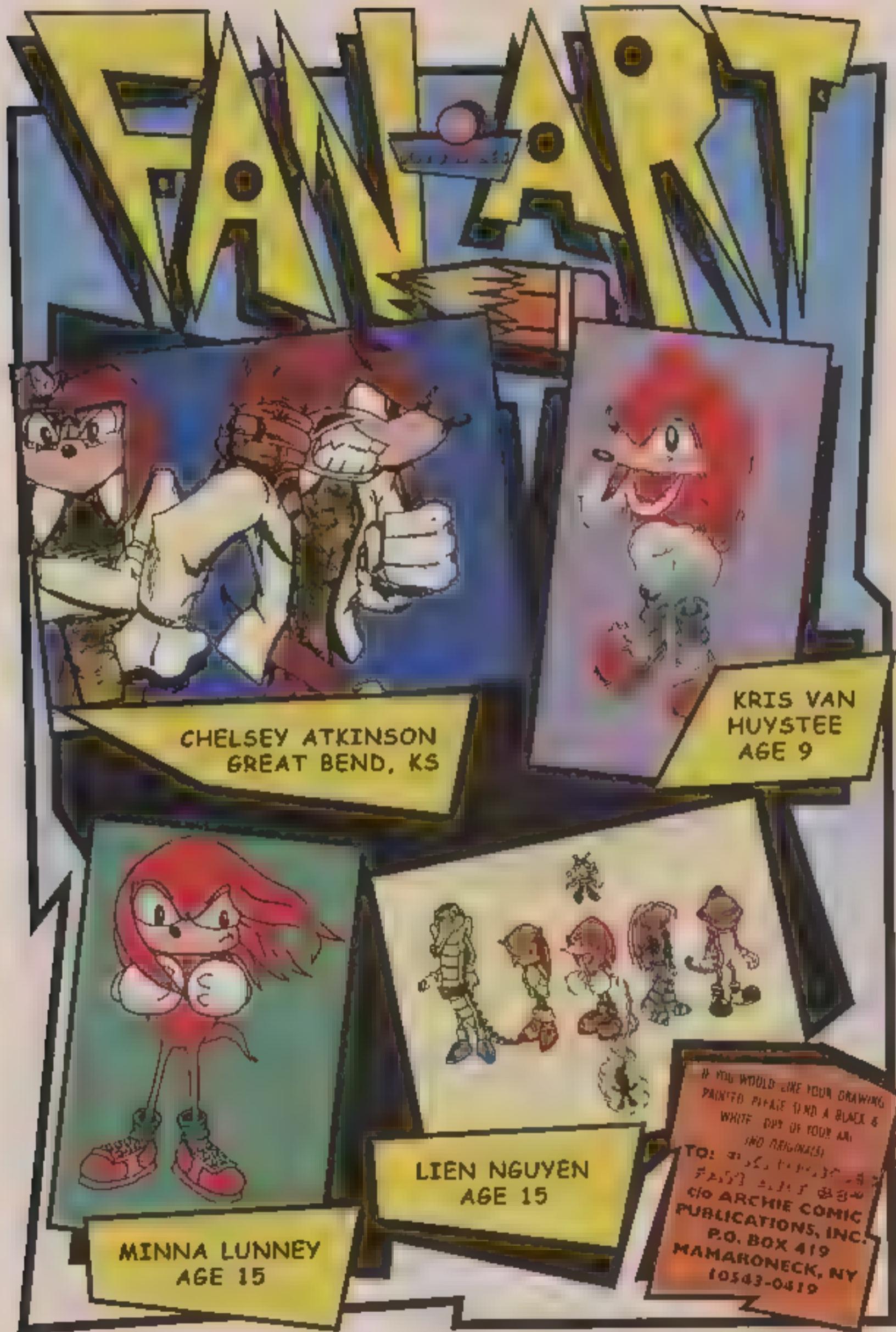
IS THAT
CLEAR?

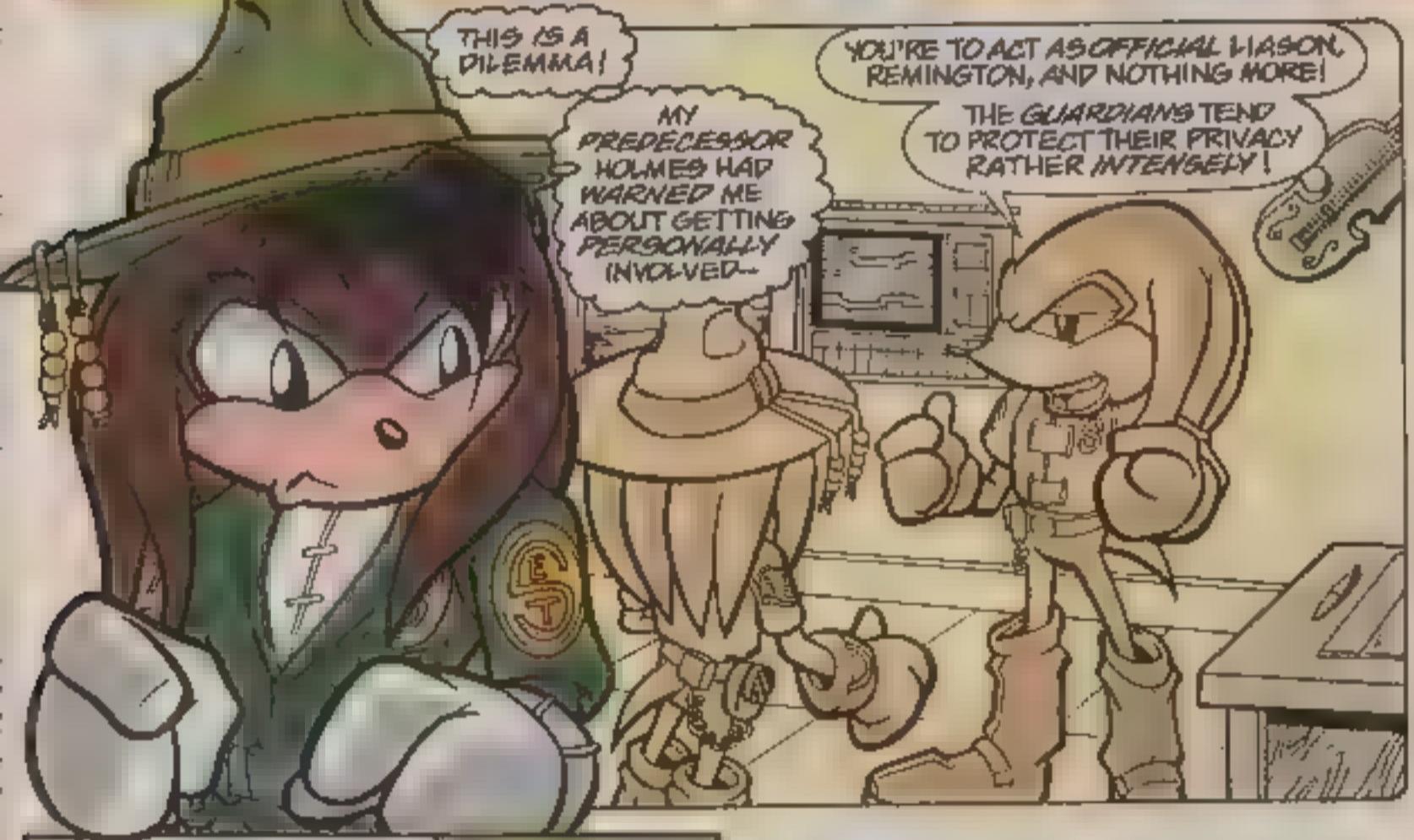
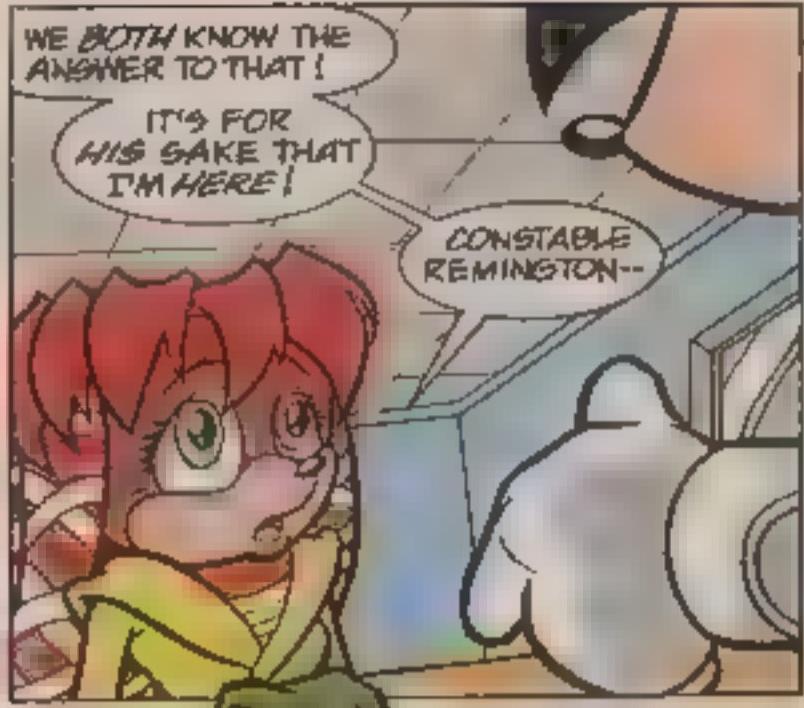
AS A BELL,
SERGEANT!

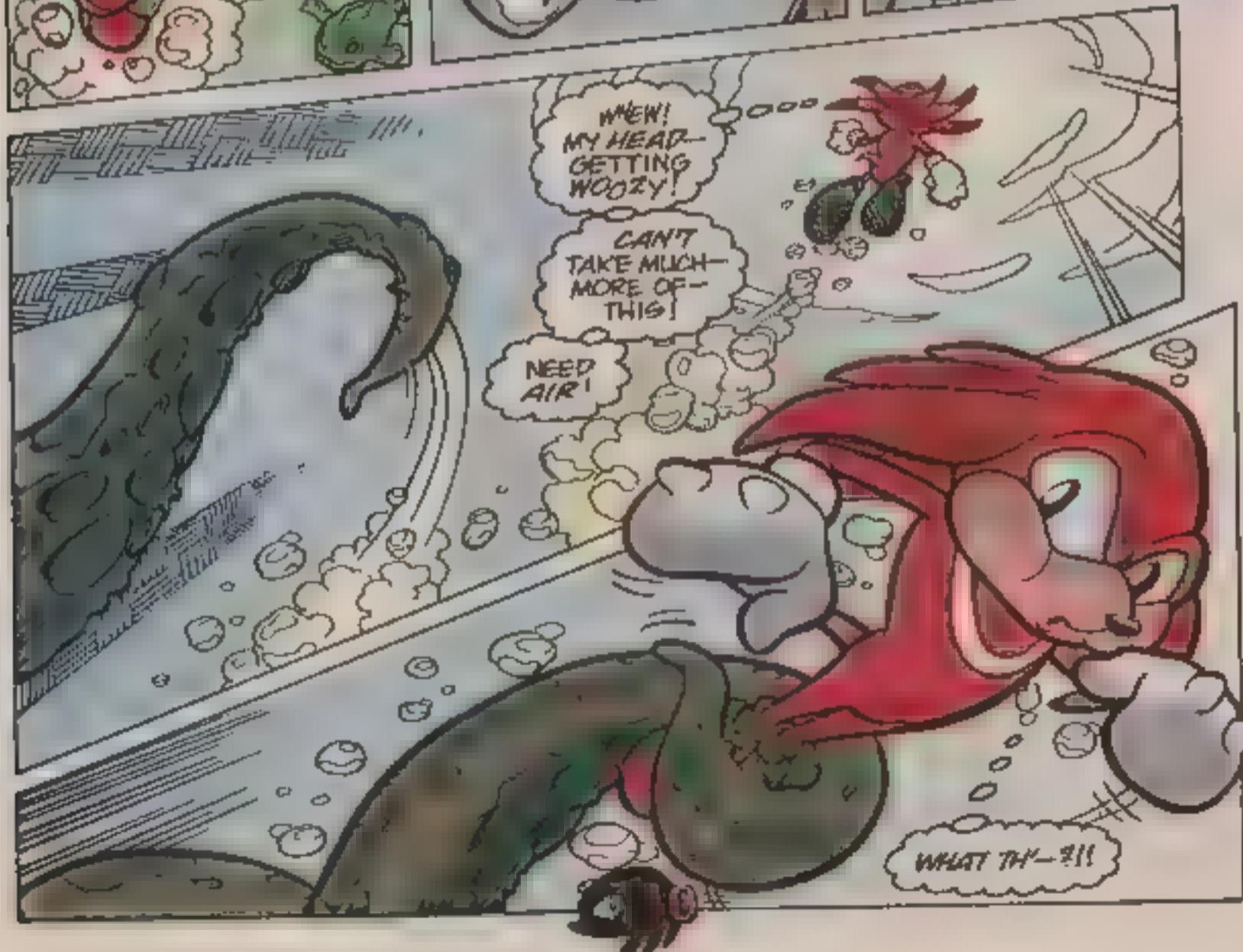
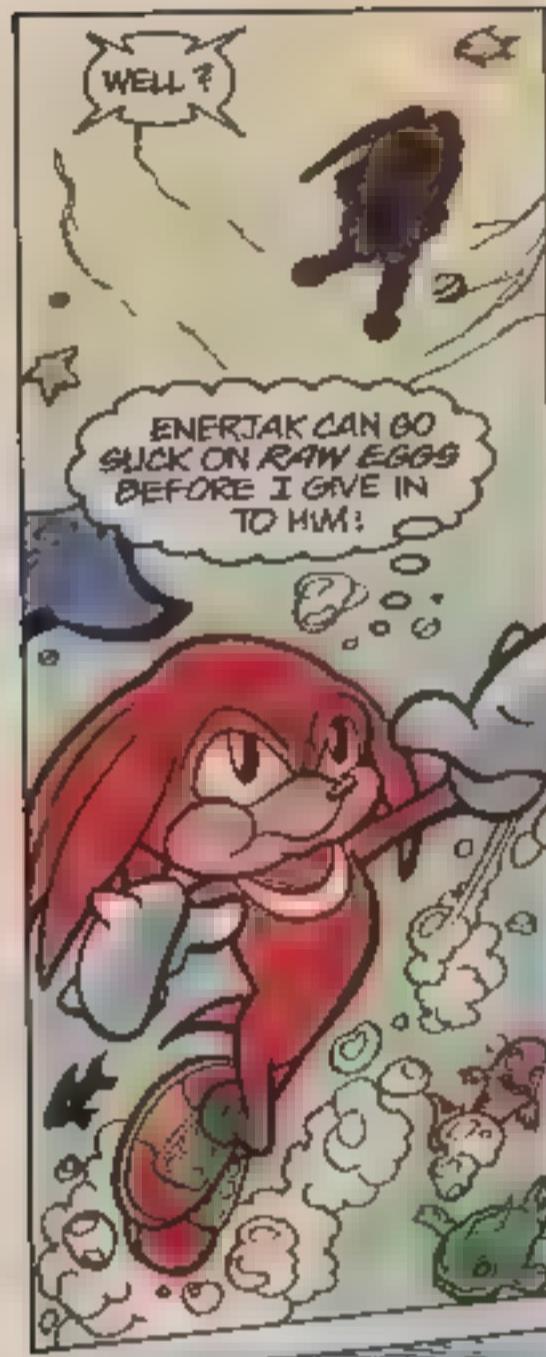
NOW, UNLESS
YOU INTEND TO USE
THAT THING—











AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS,
OH MASKFACE HAS TO COME AND GLOAT!

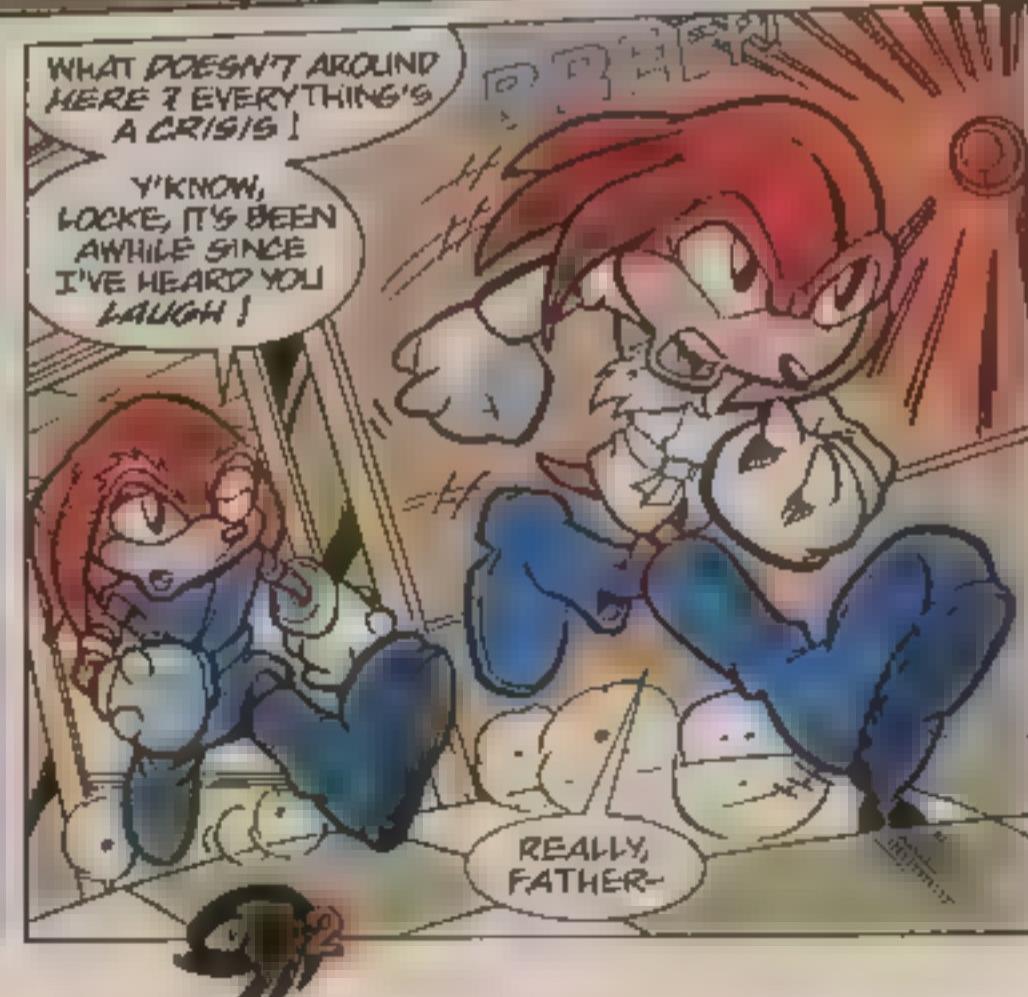
THAT'S MUCH TOO MILD A WORD TO DESCR BE MY DESIRES AT THE MOMENT!

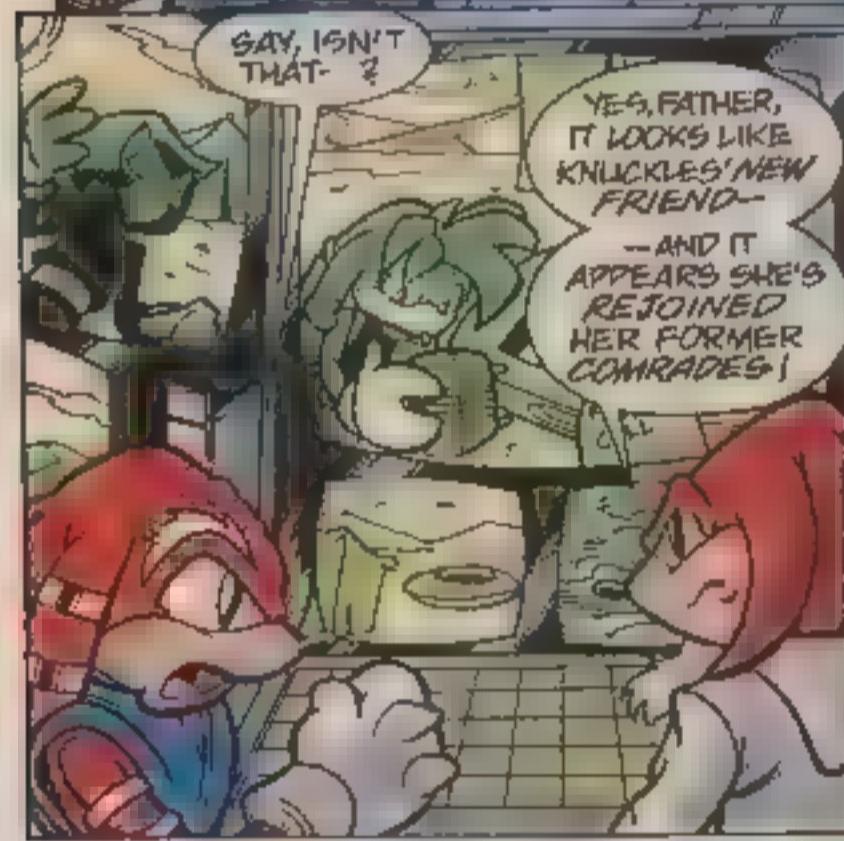
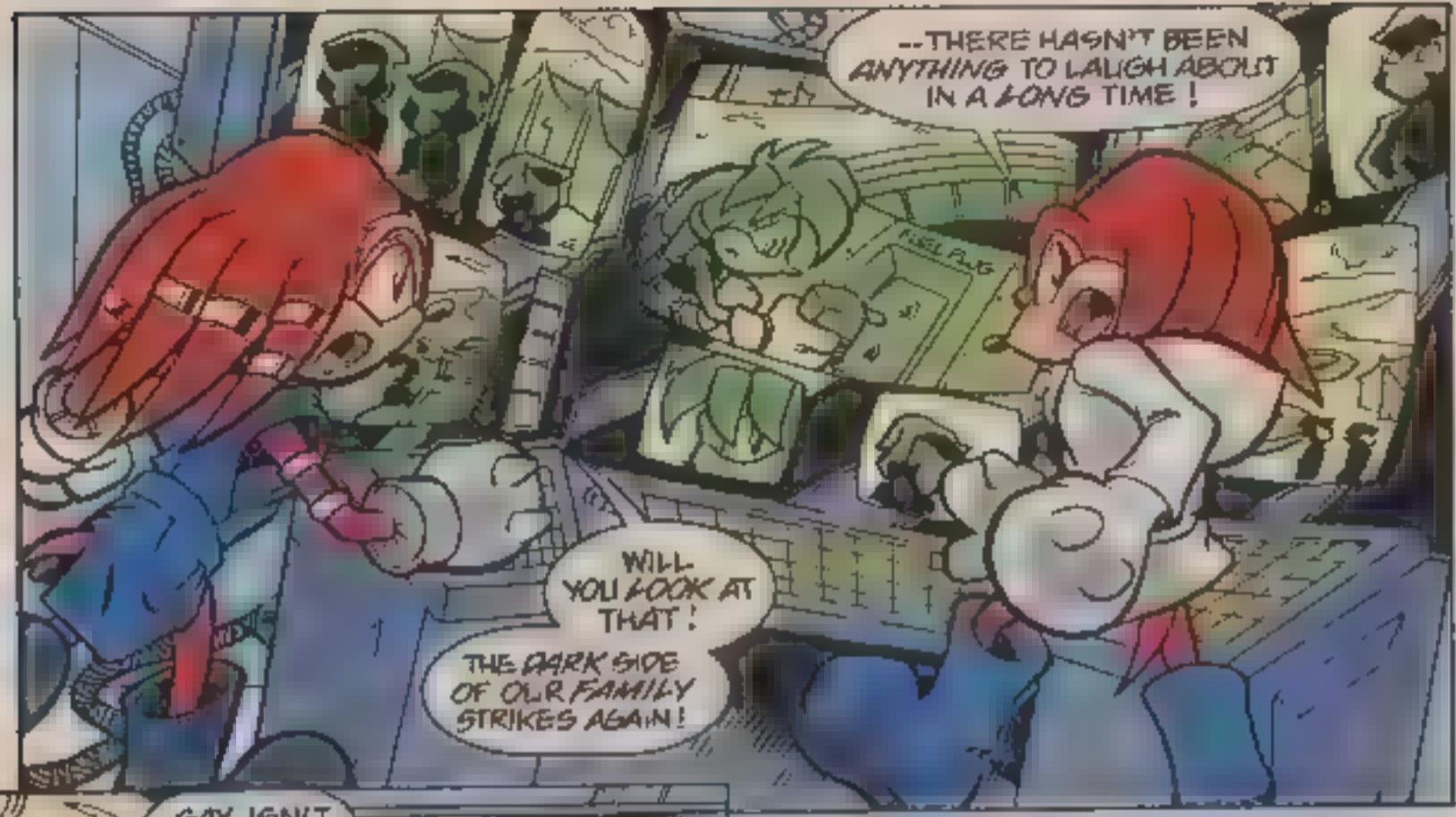
GLOAT!

IN FACT, I AM SO THOROUGHLY ENJOYING--

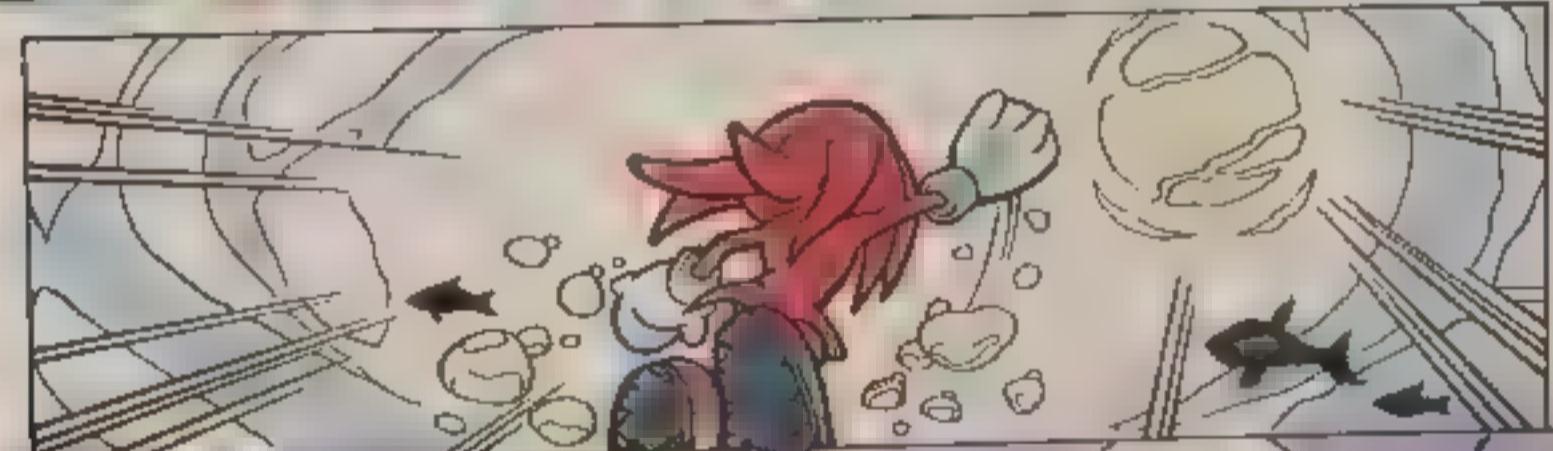
-WATCHING YOU GIVE A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO SITTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHA N!

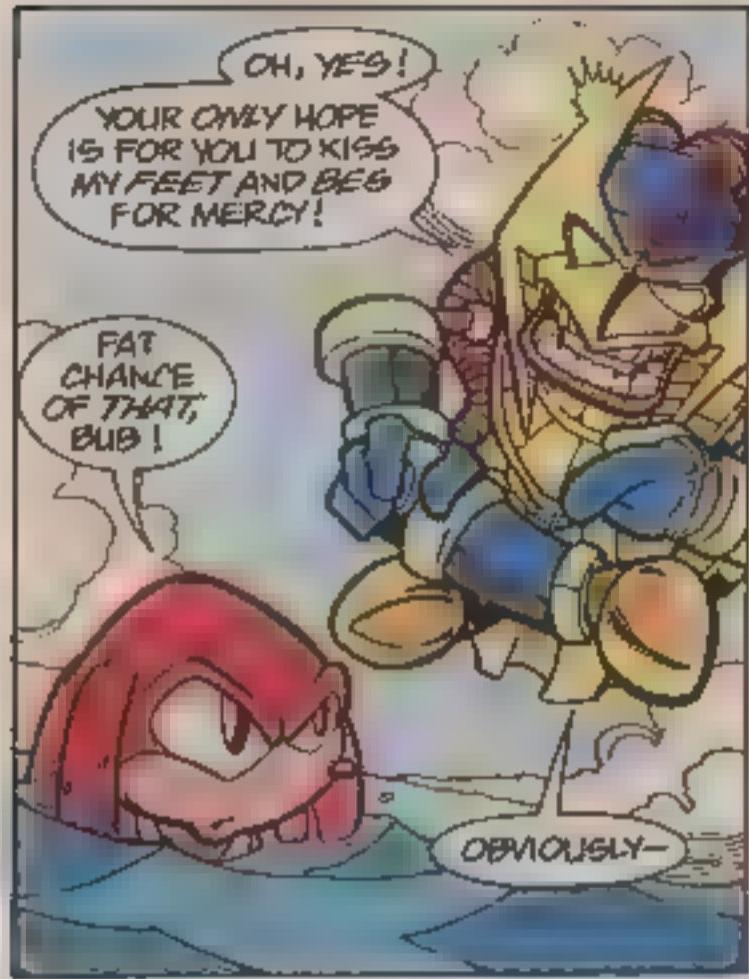
YEAH?

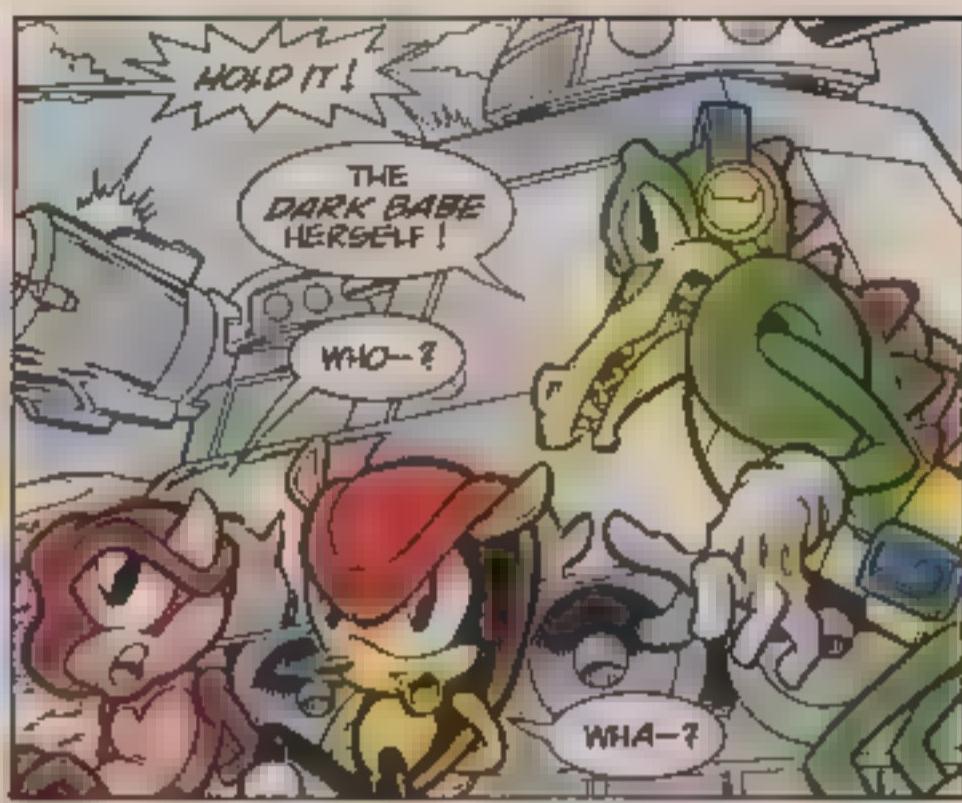


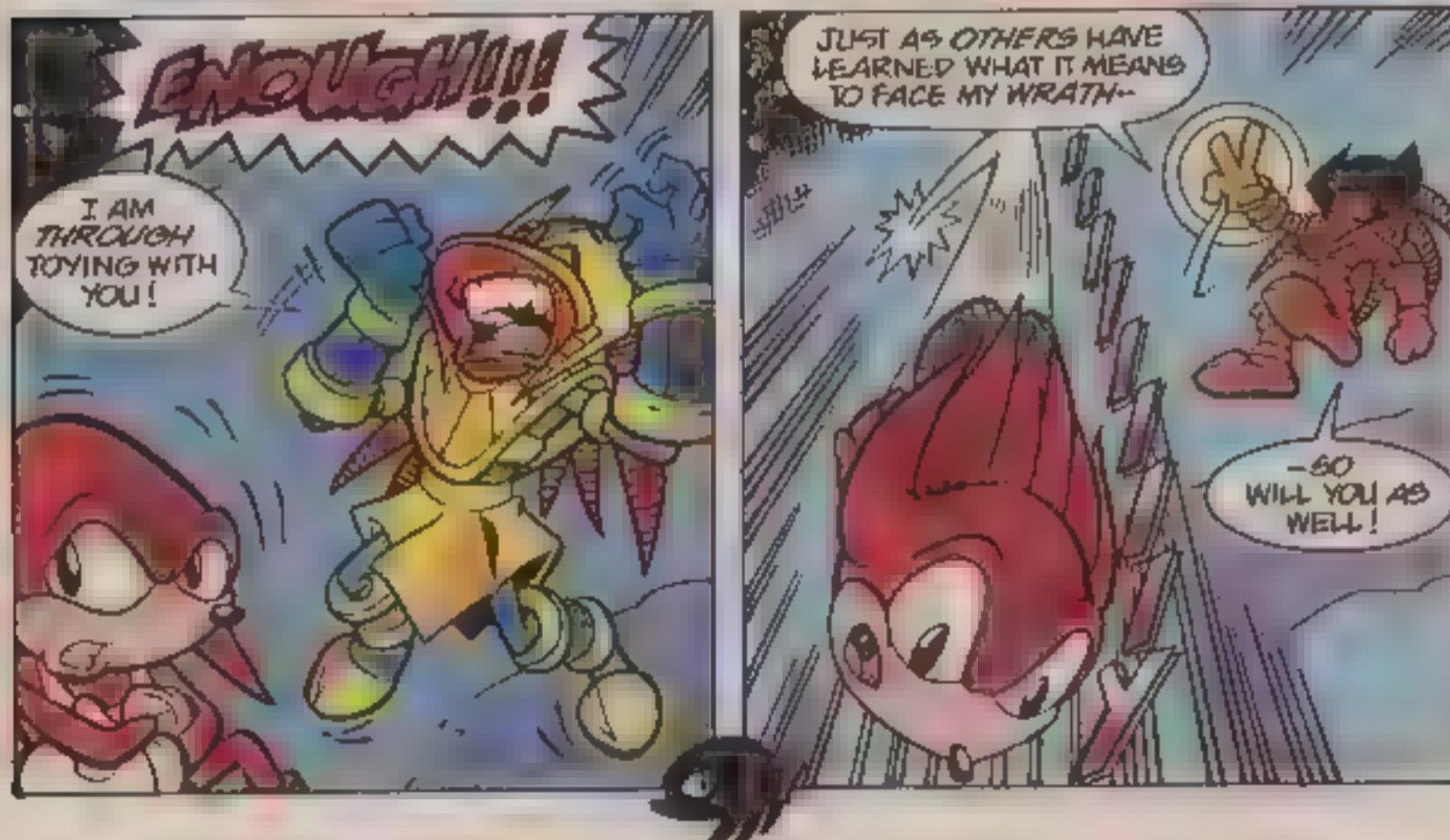
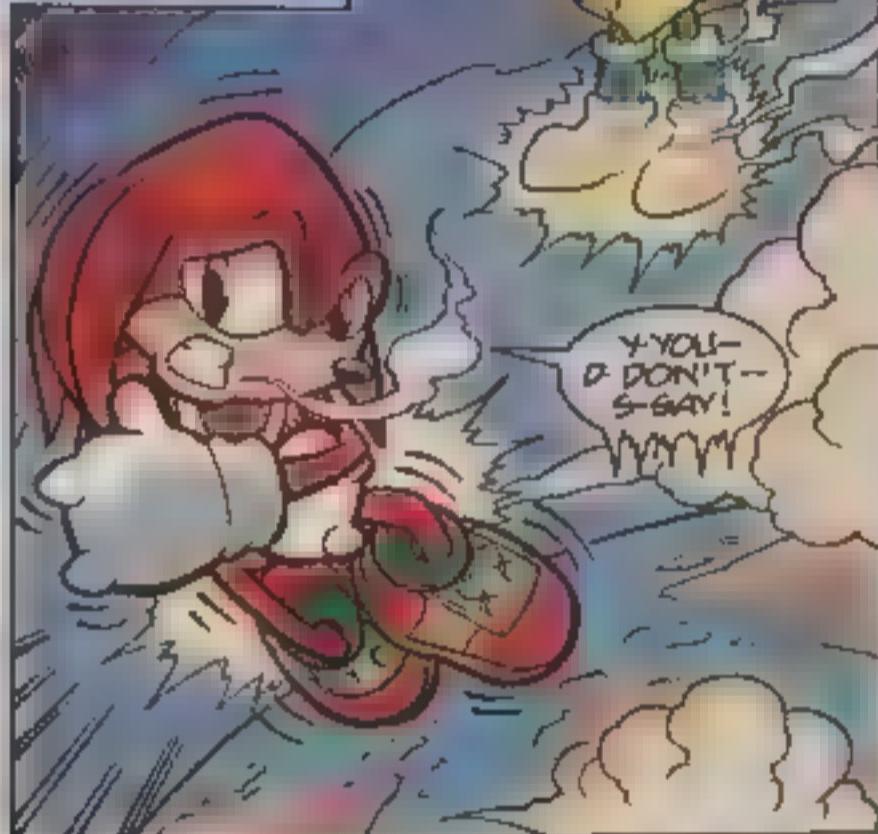


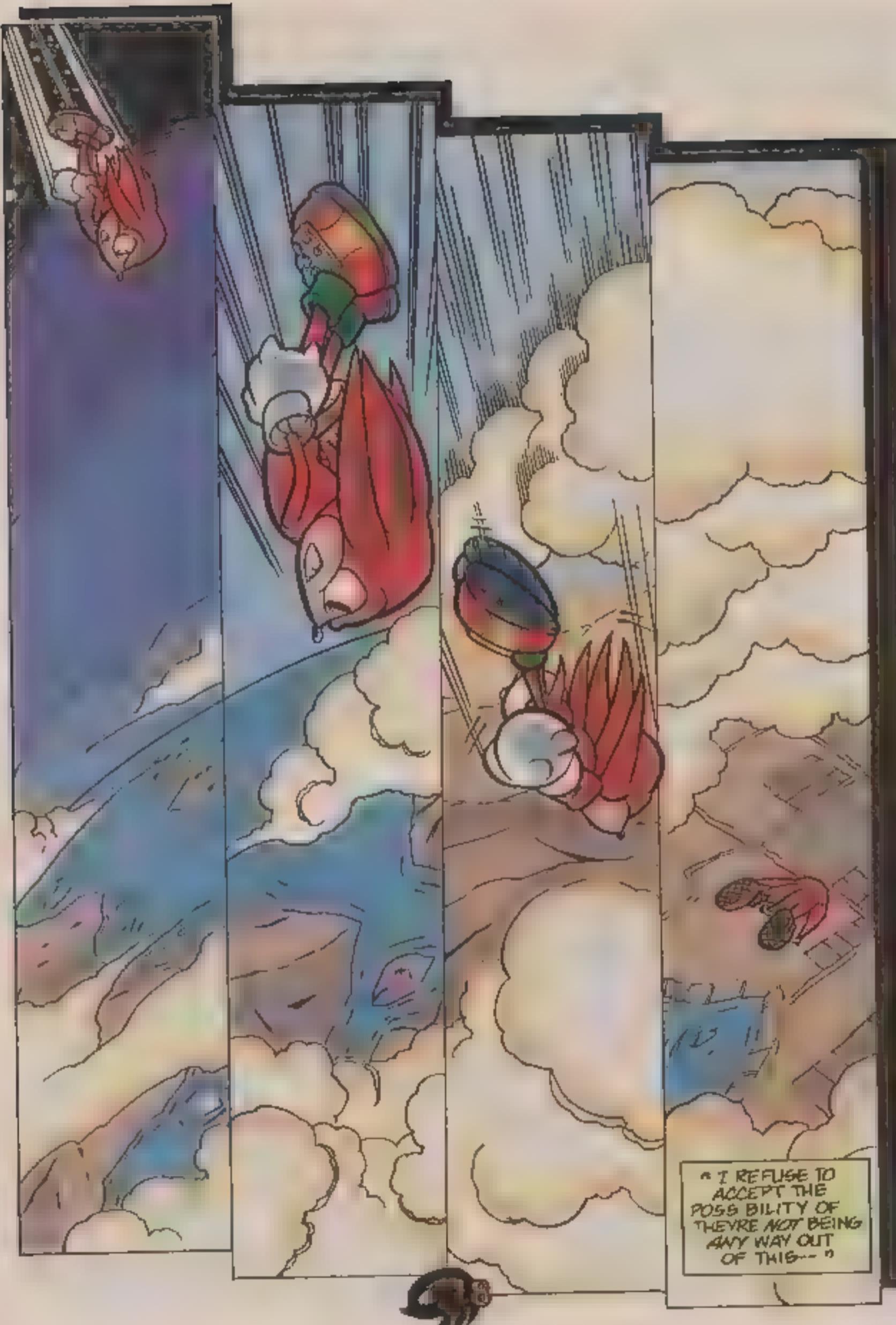
"—I DO BELIEVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THAT EXTREME MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR."



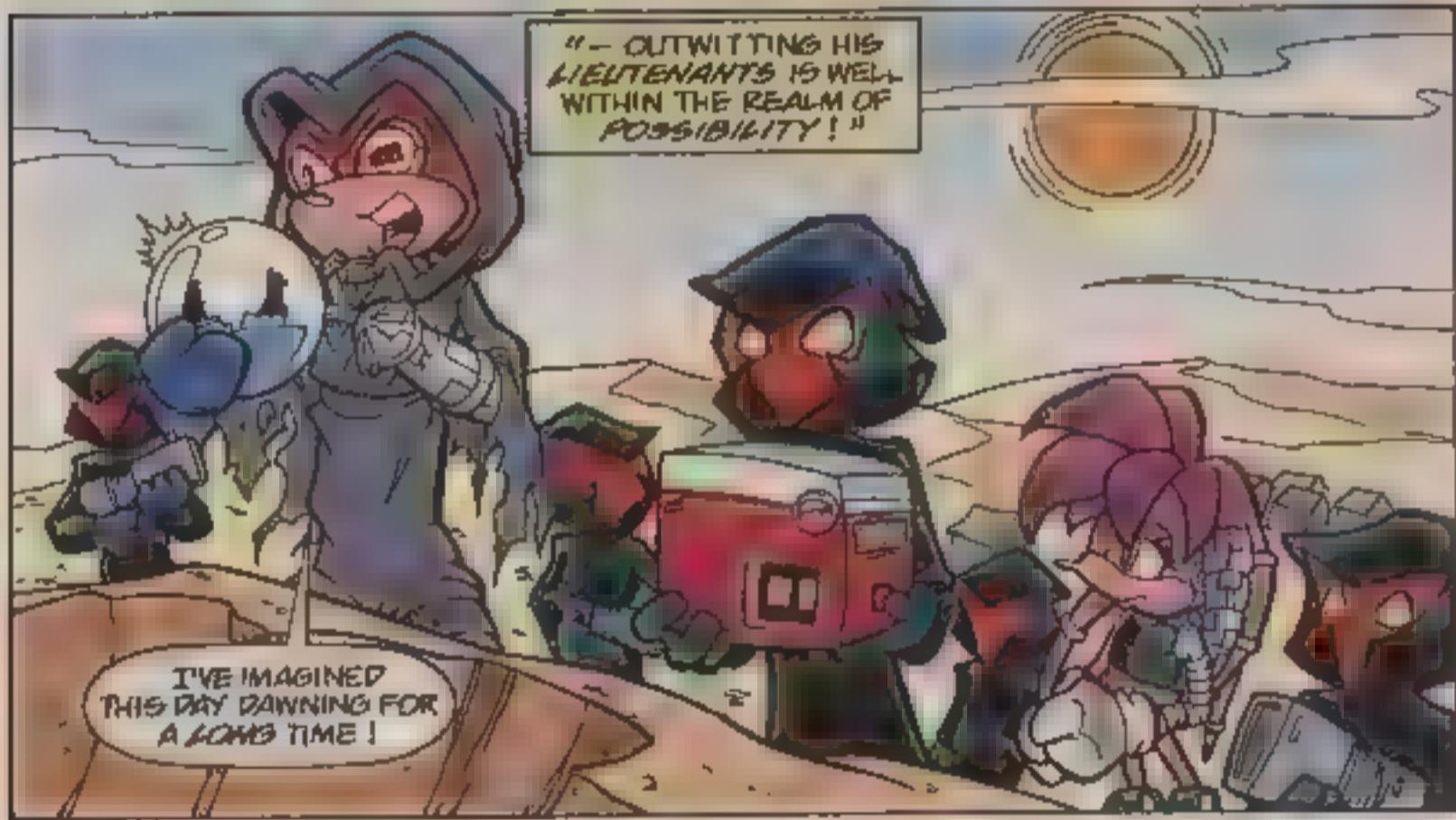
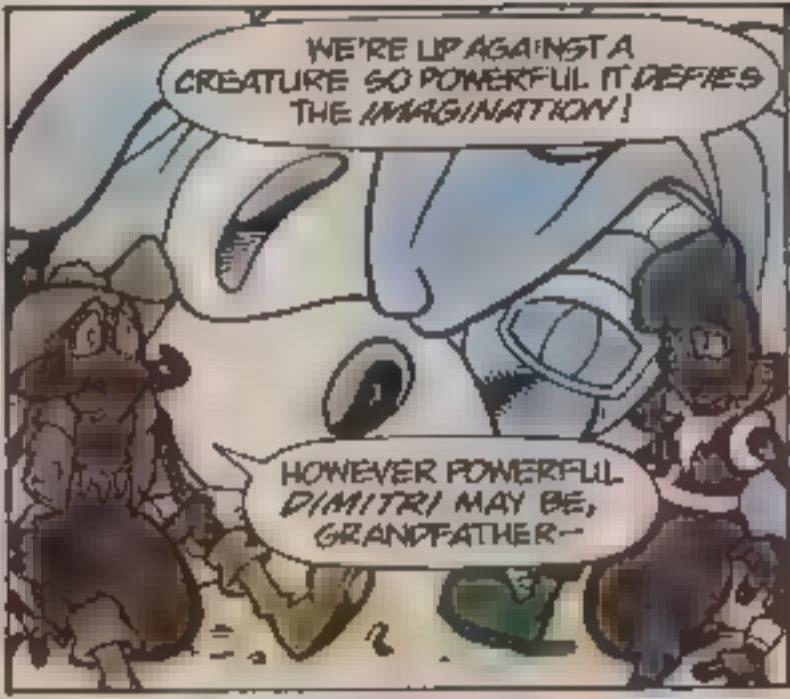
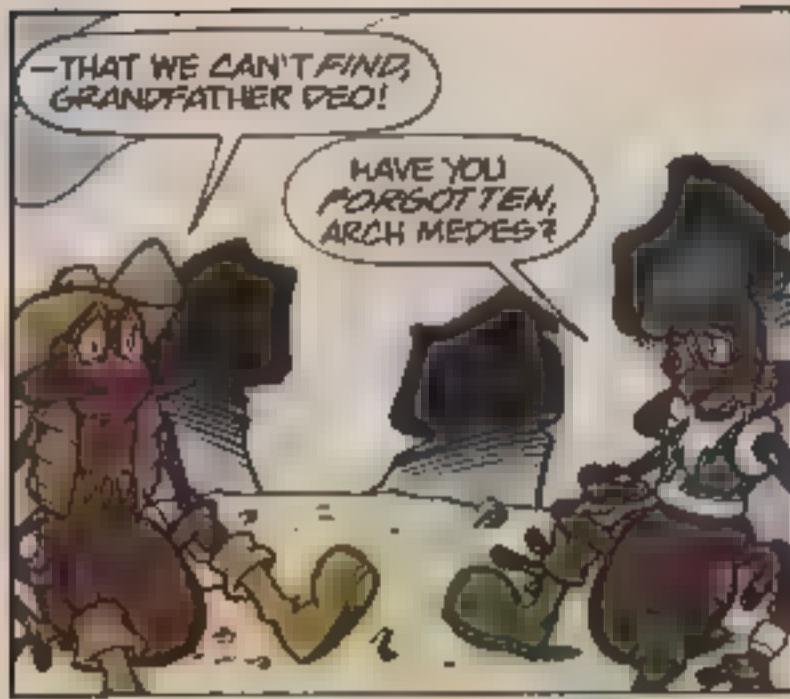


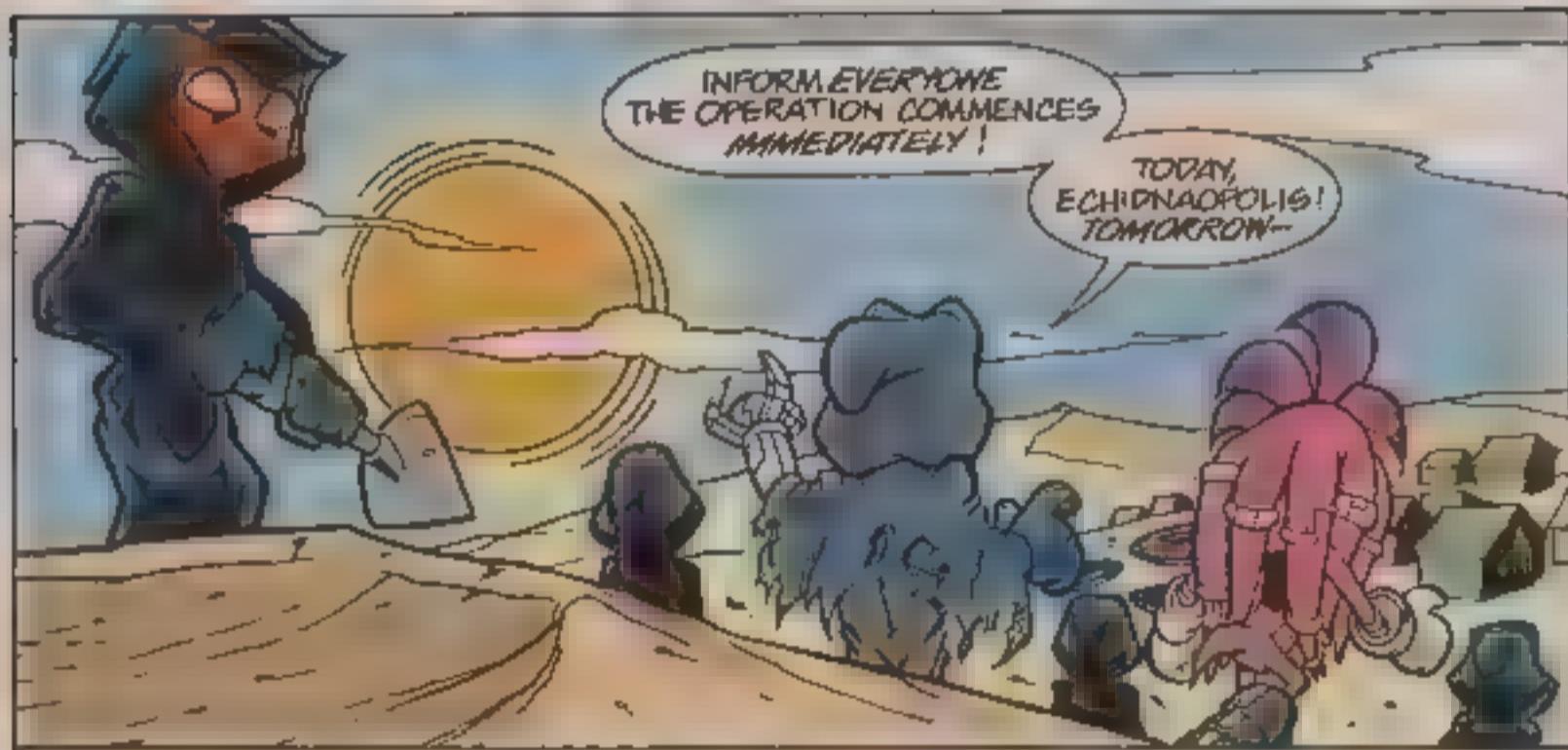


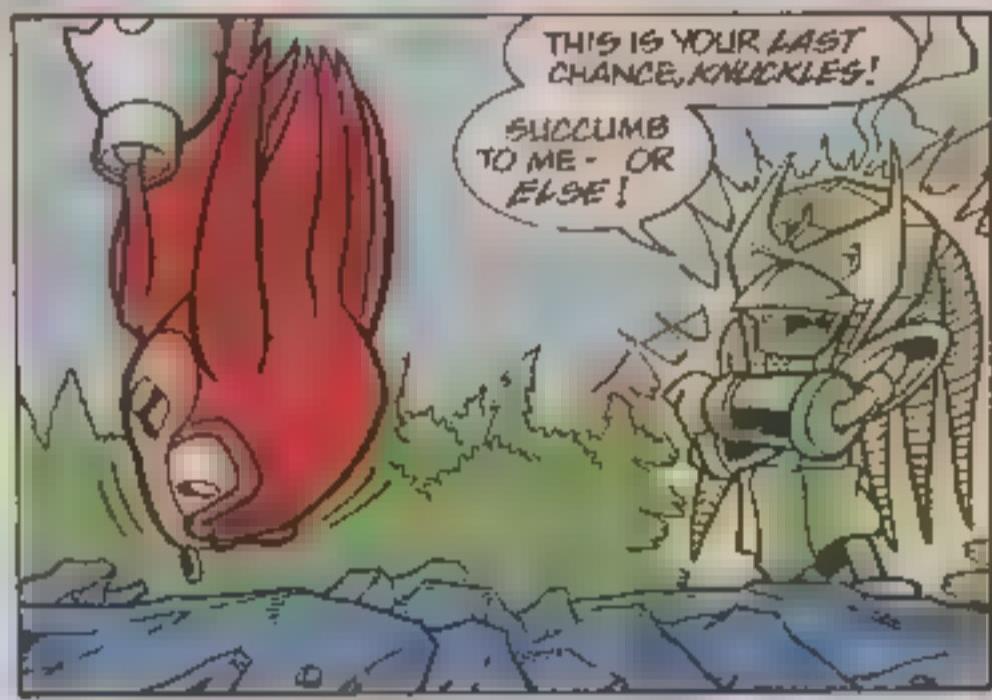
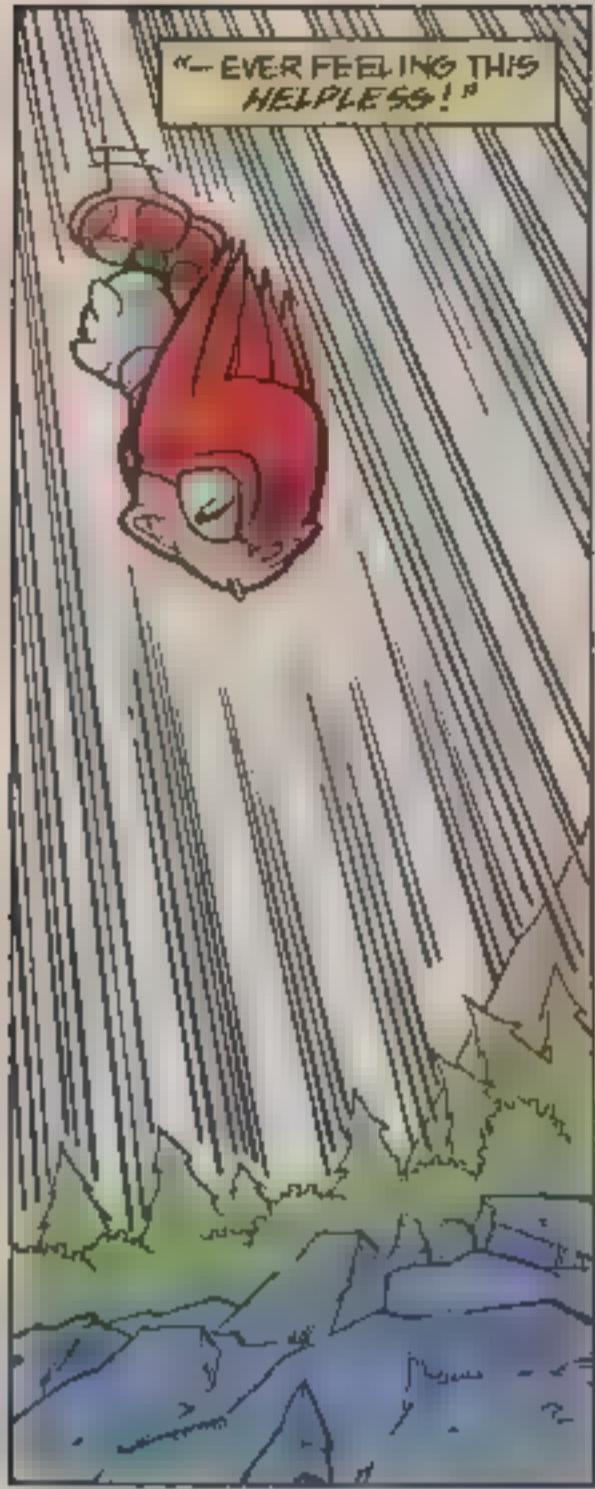




"I REFUSE TO
ACCEPT THE
POSSIBILITY OF
THEY'RE NOT BEING
ANY WAY OUT
OF THIS--"







- TAKING YOU APART
LITERALLY WILL DO JUST
AS WELL.

ENJOY
LIFE AS A
NEURON!



To be continued...
(Maybe... possibly... we hope?)

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

In two weeks: Who says things are quiet now that there is peace on Mobius? The Freedom Fighters are at it again. This time against a new threat in the form of Eggbots. Controlling them from behind bars is none other than Snively. He is on the attack as he makes his first move toward seeking power. And that power shows up in the form of Monkey Khan, a cyborg monkey created by Robotnik years ago. Is he friend or foe? Only this story knows for sure. Writer/Penciler Frank Strom chronicles this tale with inks by Ken Penders. Also in this issue: What is wrong with King Acorn? He's ordering the dismantling of ALL robotized Hobbits, including Uncle Chuck! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #55 on sale December 1997!

In three weeks: It's the premiere of Nights Into Dreams #1 (based on the game by Sega Saturn). When was the last time you felt in control of your dreams? Well, Elliot and Claris might have the answer. Join them as they help Nights stop Wizeman The Wicked from making reality into his own realm of nightmares. This rock em-sock em three-issue mini-series is brought to you by writer Dan Slott, who brought you 'Ken & Stumpy, the comic book' and 'TMNT: The Year of the Turtle' mini-series. He is joined by penciling sensations Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante and Manny Galan. Taking by the man they call Harvo, look out for those computer-rendered covers by the Spaz/Harvo/Herocic Age team. Find the coupon in this issue and order this new mini-series today! NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #1 on sale December 1997!

And next month: The conclusion to this three-part epic. Everybody is in it. Need we say more? KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #9 on sale December 1997!

Catch you on the flip side!

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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #55
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997

NIGHTS
INTO DREAMS #1
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997

KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #9
ON SALE DECEMBER 1997

Dear Knuckles-Grams,

Before I begin, I'd like to give a big great thanks to the powers that be at Archie Comics and the Sonic editors. There, now that the mushy stuff is over with, let's get on to my comments on Knuckles: The Dark Legion #2.

To my surprise, Knuckles TDL is turning out to be even better than the first Knuckles mini-series! I speak the honest-to-Sonny truth when I say that this was the best Knuckles story I've ever read thus far. Much kudos to Manny Galan. From some of the video game references he's slipped into his art, I believe he's a fellow video game fan like Spad. The Galan+Pepoy team makes the absolute best art available in Sonic comics outside of the Spad+Harro team.

I find it interesting how Knuckles is supposedly the "Guardian of the Floating Island," yet the guardians are apparently supposed to run operations from this place called "Haven." Knuckles' father is watching him from Haven, which leads me to believe that Knuckles is actually still under training for guardian. That means Knuckles' father is actually still the real guardian. Hmmm... anyhow, thanks for reading my letter, and don't ever stop making Sonic comics! (And start making another Knuckles series, my army of insane Knuckles fans are getting a little—heh, heh—restless!) Heh, heh, heh...

Sonic-crewy,
Green Gibbon
Church Point, LA

Thanks for the rave review, Gibbon. All we can say is if you keep reading them, we'll keep making them.

Dear Knuckles,

I'm your biggest, biggest, BIGGEST fan. I have both of your Saga games. I beat the "Sonic and Knuckles" game as Hyper Knuckles every time. I have all the Sonic Specials that you appeared in. I also have your first mini-series. It was great! The Dark Legion mini-series is even better! I just got #2 and it just keeps getting better and better. I hope that you get your own regular series soon. You're my favorite freedom fighter and I know you're way past cooler than Sonic. You can tell him that if you want.

Troy #1 Had Red Fan,
Carletta "The Knucklehead" Davis (age 15)
Montgomery, AL

Well, I don't know anybody cooler than the Blue Blur but thanks for thinking I'm it. As you well know by now, I did get my own series and I couldn't have done it without the support of my fans.

Dear Knuckles,

I heard you're getting your own comic series and I just wanted to be first to congratulate you. I have some questions to ask you: 1) What happened to your mom? 2) How old were you when your dad went into the forbidden zone? 3) Would you ever join the Freedom Fighters? Well that's about it, catch you on the flip side.

Shane Crider
Takoma, WA

Thanks for the congrats, Shane. I am "mighty" proud (no pun intended). Now on to your questions: 1) As you saw in issue #4, my mom is just fine and is back in my life. 2) I was about nine years old. 3) Join The Freedom Fighters? I've got my own problems and responsibilities being the 'Guardian of The Floating Island' that there's not enough time for me to do both. But I do help from time to time whenever I can.

Dear Knux,

Why don't they give you a comic cover without Sonic on the front? I have some questions. 1) Who are Heavy and Bomb? 2) How many guardians has there been before you? 3) Is there any other intelligent life on The Floating Island besides you, the Chaotix, Benny the Kangaroo and his mom, and Catweazle? I have every comic of yours besides "Chaotix", and the last of the "Dark Legion" and Sonic & Knuckles "Battle Royal".

See ya,
Trevor Elvey
McKinneyville, OR

1) Heavy and Bomb were two of Robotnik's weapons that defected to The Floating Island for some peace and quiet.

2) There have been sixteen guardians before me. 3) Yeah. There's a whole bunch of other species on the Island. We will be able to see more of them in

future issues.



Dear Knuckles,

I LOVE YOU! Your appearances in the Sonic comics and your own mini-series were great. I love "Knuckles: The Dark Legion" and am eagerly awaiting the release of "Knuckles: The Echidna #4." I think you should have put in more of an appearance in "The Death-Egg Saga." I absolutely love what the artists at Archie have done with you. My favorite character to play in Sonic 3 is you.

What I'd really like to know is how can I get a copy of your debut in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #13!!!! My lucky number is 13. I've searched and searched, but all I've found is issues #15 and #17. True, I didn't have them before, but I REALLY want issue #13. That will make my collection #1, #14-18 of the regular series, and all special issues (with exception of Sonic Lot. #6-8).

Yours Pal,

H. "Sketch" S.
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next
month,
stay cool!



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